GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6910
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
ACCIDENTS OF SMALL AIRCRAFT
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether small aircraft and helicopters operating in India are more prone to accidents than the aeroplanes operated by the scheduled airlines as reported in `The Hindustan Times` dated April 15, 2002 under the caption `small planes, choppers prone to mishap`;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether out of 70 air accidents reported since 1992 small aircrafts and helicopters have been involved in 52;

(d) if so, the main factors attributed thereto;

(e) whether investigations reveal that most of the accidents were occurred due to poor quality of training; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government for proper training of pilots and basic infrastructural facilities and to minimise the accidents of small aircraft?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a):- Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c):- There were 70 accidents to Indian Civil Registered aircraft since 1992. Out of these, 52 accidents occurred to small fixed wing aircraft and helicopters.

(d) and (e):- No, Sir. The analysis of causes of 48 accidents to small fixed wing aircraft/helicopter by investigating authorities, reveal that 33 accidents had resulted due to pilot handling and operational decisions. Other causes were bad weather, engineering, Air Traffic Control and miscellaneous factors such as intrusion into active runway, inadvertant walking into rotating rotor blades causing air accidents.

(f):- Government had constituted a Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the systems and procedures for acquistion, maintenance and operation of small aircraft. The recommendations made by the Committee is applicable to airworthiness and safety of aircraft operations and cover surveillance checks, safety audit, training of pilots, flying training institues, acquisition of aircraft, etc. The recommendations are in the process of implementation, which is an ongoing process.